

I claim:

1. A method for using the Internet to facilitate a transaction between a customer and at least one supplier of music scores to discourage illegal copying of music scores,

5 comprising:

associating suppliers 26, 28, 30 of music scores with a music score service unit 18;

a customer 12 contacting a website 16 of the service unit 18 and sending a request signal 19 to the website 16 to obtain a
10 music score 20;

the unit 18 receiving the signal 19 and digitally searching for the music score 20 in a database 22;

when no copy of the music score 20 being available in the database 22, the unit 18 sending request signals 24a-c to the
15 suppliers 26, 28, 30;

the suppliers 26, 28, 30 sending back an affirmation signal 32 to the service 18 when a digital copy 35 of the music score 20 is available from the suppliers;

the service unit 18 receiving the affirmation signal 32;

20 the service unit 18 sending a delivery request signal 41 to the supplier 28;

the supplier 28 sending the digital copy 35 of the music score 20 to the service unit 18; and

the service unit 18 receiving the digital copy 35 of the music
25 score 20 and sending a delivery signal 36 to the customer including the digital copy 35 of the music score 20;

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the service unit 18 sending the digital copy 35 to the customer 12 when the digital copy 35 is available in the database 22.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the customer 12 pre-paying for the digital copy 35.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the service unit 18 compensating the supplier 28 with the payment amount received from the customer 12 minus a service charge.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the service unit 18 charging the customer 12 a reduced fee or no fee at all when the digital copy 35 is not delivered within a promised time period.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the service unit 18 providing transposition services to the customer 12.

7. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the supplier 28 sending a royalty payment to a copyright control function 33 associated with a copyright owner 34.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method further

comprises the service unit 18 sending a charge signal 37 to the customer 12 to request payment of the digital copy 35 and the customer 12 sending a payment signal 39 to the service unit 18.